(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Factor inhibiting International Investment

158. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has said that there is a widespread perception that the most important factor blocking international investments is the quality of infrastructure and that Planning Commission would prepare a paper on regulatory standards to evolve globally benchmarked standards and create an investor friendly environment;

(b) if so, whether this paper has been prepared;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time-frame for preparing this paper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The note is under preparation. It is likely to be submitted to Committee on Infrastructure within three months.

Food for work and Rojgar Guarantee Scheme

†159. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link 'food for work' programme with Rojgar Guarantee Scheme and whether requisite legislation is also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the offing for generating the employment during current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The National Common Minimum Programme envisages that a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment would be provided to begin with on asset creating public works every year to at least one able bodied person in every rural, urban poor and lower middle class household. In the interim, a massive food for work will be started. During the current financial year, a National Food for Work Programme has been introduced. The programme was launched on 14.11.2004 in 153 backward districts.

New Drug for Tuberculosis

160. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Scientists have achieved a major breakthrough in tuberculosis treatment by finding a new molecules to cure the disease;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it would help reduce treatment time from six to eight months to only two months;

(c) whether this is the world's first success in developing a new therapeutic molecule for tuberculosis; and

(d) if so, by when the drug developed from the new molecules would be available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In animal studies, the molecule in combination with other anti-TB drugs has reduced the treatment time from the present six to eight months to two months.

(c) and (d) It is not the world's first success. However, the present therapeutic molecule has been discovered after a gap of about four